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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 10 JANUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued between 16 and 31 December 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

Your intervention is requested with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on its people by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

United States and British violations and damage caused, 16-31 December 1998

1. In the northern region 48 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Ayn Zalah, Zakho, Kifri and Rawanduz.

2. In the southern region 649 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Basrah, Shatrah, Maymunah, Rifa'i, Kut, Mu'aniyah, Diwaniyah, Amarah, Umm Qasr, Safwan, Qal'at Salih, Najaf, Nu'maniyah, Lasaf, Qal'at Sukkar, Ali al-Sharqi, Afak, Islah and Hawr al-Hammar.

3. At 1800 hours on 7 December 1998 a United States helicopter flew over the United Arab Emirates passenger ferry Jabal Ali I as it was proceeding through the Khawr Abd Allah waterway towards the open sea. The crew of the helicopter addressed provocative questions to the vessel over the radio.

4. On 8 December 1998 a United States helicopter flew over the freighter Guin, which was carrying a cargo of rice under the "oil-for-food" programme, while it was proceeding through the Khawr Abd Allah waterway towards the port at Umm Qasr, addressed provocative questions to it and tried to obstruct its passage. The vessel had already been searched in the inspection zone on the same day.

5. Between 0023 and 0500 hours on 8 December 1998 a United States helicopter flew over the Iraqi tanker Rayshan at the entry to the Khawr Abd Allah waterway while it was proceeding from Faw to Umm Qasr and tried to obstruct its passage.

6. On the morning of 12 December 1998 a United States helicopter intercepted the Iraqi vessel Al-Bishah at the entry to the Khawr Abd Allah waterway as it was proceeding towards Umm Qasr, subjected it to provocation and tried to obstruct its passage over a one-hour period.

7. The United States and the United Kingdom, using missiles and aircraft, launched a brutal armed attack on Iraq that lasted for the four days from 17 to 20 December 1998. It targeted civilian areas, industrial installations, infrastructure, hospitals, health facilities, schools, universities, heritage sites and grain depots. This savage aggression left behind hundreds of innocent civilian casualties and caused large-scale losses in terms of property damage.

8. At 1417 hours on 22 December 1998 United States aircraft fired to missiles at Iraqi territory in the northern part of the Basrah area.

9. At 1125 hours on 26 December 1998 four United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace in the Basrah area to the south-east of the Northern Rumaylah oilfields. Our air defence units engaged them, forcing the aggressor aircraft

o drop their payloads. Another formation, consisting of six aircraft, later eturned to the same area. Our air defence units engaged them in self-defence, orced them to drop their payloads and drove them off.

0. At 0943 hours on 27 December 1998 two United States aircraft violated Iraqi irspace over Nasiriyah. Our air defences engaged them and drove them off.

1. At 1304 hours on 28 December 1998 formations of United States aircraft iolated Iraqi airspace over Mosul. Our air defence units engaged them and rove them off.

2. At 1337 hours on 28 December 1998 formations of United States aircraft iolated Iraqi airspace in the Mosul area. Our air defence units engaged them nd drove them off.

3. At 0924 hours on 29 December 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi irspace in the Samawah area and fired three missiles. Our air defence units ngaged them and drove them off.

4. On the morning of 30 December 1998 United States and British aircraft iolated Iraqi airspace in Muthanna Governorate and fired six missiles at the illage of Āl Sallab. A number of citizens were killed and wounded in the enemy ombardment, and several homes were destroyed and serious damage was done to roperty.